

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 ACDA-12 ERDA-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PARM TECH ENRG MO
SUBJECT: GOM REQUEST FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF A. STATE 266576, B. STATE 269969

1. DURING NOV 11 CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ALAOUI (PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS UNCTAD-RELATED ISSUES) E/C COUNSELOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM OF STATUS OF GOM'S REQUEST FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT (NCA).

2. DRAWING ON REF A E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT CONGRESS WAS PRESENTLY REVISING US NONPROLIFERATION LEGISLATION, BUT THAT ENACTMENT UNLIKELY BEFORE EARLY 1978. NEVERTHELESS, USG CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING NCA WITH GOM AND WAS SEEKING APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY TO BEGIN SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

3. ALAOUI EXPRESSED DISMAY AT IMPLICATION OF DELAY AND IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES MOUSSA SAADI TO RELAY FACTS. AFTER THIS CALL, ALAOUI REPORTED THAT:

-- MOROCCO PREFERS TO WORK WITH US NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY,
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-- INSTALLATION OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE NEXT (1978-82) FIVE-YEAR PLAN; MOREOVER, NUMEROUS ANCILLARY PROJECTS (ALSO PROVIDED FOR IN THE NEW PLAN) ARE PREDICATED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF A MOROCCAN NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM, --RESOURCES FOR THESE PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED IN THE PLAN, AND SOME PRELIMINARY FUNDING HAS ALREADY BEEN

INCLUDED IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET,
-- GOM'S PLANS AND FUND ALLOCATIONS WOULD BE DISRUPTED BY
ANY SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE RESEARCH
REACTOR PROJECT,
-- GOM HAD HOPED THAT AN NCA COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED DURING
KING'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO US.

4. ALAOUI THEN ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY THAT IF NCA
COULD NOT BE SIGNED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR GOM MIGHT BE
COMPELLED TO RECONSIDER ITS CONTRACT WITH GENERAL
ATOMIC, AND PERHAPS LOOK ELSEWHERE. E/C COUNSELOR
URGED GOM UNDERSTANDING FOR SITUATION USG PRESENTLY
CONFRONTED WITH, ESPECIALLY PRESSING BUSINESS WHICH
CONGRESS FACING WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY
PACKAGE. AT ALAOUI'S REQUEST, HOWEVER, HE UNDERTOOK
TO REPORT GOM'S CONCERNS.

5. COMMENT: JUST RECEIVED REF B. WILL FOLLOW UP
AS APPROPRIATE. MOST HELPFUL AT PRESENT JUNCTURE WOULD
BE ANY INDICATION WE COULD PASS ON AS TO PREFERRED VENUE AND
APPROXIMATE TIMING OF DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO NCA, THIS
TO AVOID ANY GOM TEMPTATION TO RE-THINK ITS RELATION-
SHIP WITH GENERAL ATOMIC. IN LIGHT OF EXISTING GOM
COMMITMENTS TO IAEA, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD DISCUSSIONS
BEGIN PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION? ALSO, WHAT
WOULD BE NORMAL EXPECTED DELAY BETWEEN OPENING OF
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NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT? FURTHERMORE,
DOES AGREEMENT HAVE TO BE RATIFIED, AND IF SO, WHAT
IS REASONABLE EXPECTED TIME-FRAME BETWEEN SIGNATURE AND
RATIFICATION? FINALLY, CAN LICENSE BE ISSUED FOR
RESEARCH REACTOR AS SOON AS AGREEMENT SIGNED (OR
RATIFIED)?
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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